

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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"Has Your Church Really Dropped the Baptist Name?"

On my recent trip to Chicago, a prominent Baptist minister who reads *The Fundamentalist*, said to me at lunch one day, "Has your church really dropped the Baptist name? Is it true that your church no longer claims to be a Baptist church as Dr. Norris charged in *The Fundamentalist*? Did you take the Baptist name off the church sign?"

I assured the good Brother that there had been no change whatever in the name or policy of the church; that the Fundamentalist Baptist Church in Dallas was still an old fashioned Baptist church, with a regular church membership of born-again people, baptized by immersion, and that we have never had any idea of changing the name or policies or nature of the church. The word "Baptist" is part of the official and legal name of the church, it is used on the church letterhead, used in every advertisement of the church, used in its published statement of faith, and the name of the church, "the Fundamentalist Baptist Church," is mentioned in the mast head of every copy of the two papers that I publish. There has been no change in our sign except that a frayed and faded canvas sign was removed while a committee plans for a permanent electric sign on the front of the tabernacle which will have the same name. I explained to our Brother that such false propaganda was intended for those like him in the North and East since in the southwest the multiplied thousands who know me through thousands of radio broadcasts, and are acquainted with my work, would know better. The Brother replied, "That is what I thought!"

It is a matter of great grief that any preacher should allow malice and jealousy to lead him into such slander and falsehood.

I found that sound Baptist brethren in the North generally disbelieve the false charges that I had stolen his membership list and subscription list, that I advocated taking up snakes, that I claimed miracle working powers, that my doctrine was "the one hundred per cent platform of the Holy Rollers," etc., as stated in *The Fundamentalist*. As a simple matter of fact, those charges are false and without any foundation. I have not changed my position on Bible doctrine these many years, I have never had any connection with Pentecostal or Holy Roller people, but have shown many of them their error and baptized them into Baptist churches. I have always been opposed outright to such Pentecostal heresies as speaking in

tongues, sinless perfection, women preachers and the doctrine that it is always God's will to heal, etc. I do not believe that God often heals the sick in answer to prayer, and that Christians should have Holy Spirit power for soul winning, and in a separated life, but my position on these matters is the same as Dr. R. A. Torrey, D. L. Moody, Charles G. Finney, A. J. Gordon and other great saints of the past. I properly and accurately call myself a Fundamentalist Baptist.

Let it be understood, however, that while I am a Baptist, with a local church membership, baptizing by immersion, and teaching salvation by grace, through faith, the security of the believer, and other such doctrines held through the years by Baptists, I am not connected with any Baptist headquarters anywhere and support no denominational program. Our church is an independent Baptist church such as once all Baptist churches were.

I have fellowship with all the saints of God who hold to the great fundamentals of the faith: the verbal inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, the blood atonement, salvation by faith, etc.

I make this brief statement because of a number of inquiries from far away places like that of the preachers who spoke to me in Chicago, led me to believe that it is only fair and right that the public should know my position exactly. We trust that no one will be disturbed by such false statements and that all will pray for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

"I Plan To Be At Your Next Bible School"

Say Preachers From Arizona, Illinois, Missouri, Mississippi, Etc.

PLANS FOR EIGHT GLORIOUS DAYS IN OCTOBER

The Texas Centennial, a 25 million dollar World's Fair, has just begun in Dallas and will run for six months, into the month of November. From all over America people are coming to this World's Fair. Many of them while here will attend the services at the Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle, even as did visitors yesterday. But we hope that many who cannot now attend the Centennial, will come to Dallas for a great southwestern Bible Conference at the Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle in October and incidentally see the Texas Centennial.

This morning (Monday) Mr. Byron A. Boaz from Arizona, says, "Hope I get to come to your Bible School next time." A few days ago a letter from Mr. C. E. Hughes, Illinois, said, "We were sorry to miss the Bible class (Bible School) this spring, but are now making plans to attend the class this fall." The same word comes from many, many sources.

We are planning what we believe

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

God Makes "The Sword of The Lord," a Blessing to Many

Comments From The Readers

Last week we suggested that readers say "Amen" when they were blessed by *The Sword of the Lord*. Already many had written expressing their gratitude to God for the inspiration and help from the pages of this paper. Many others are writing and we are happy to print their comments.

A Soul Feast

"I had the great pleasure today of reading two of your papers (*The Sword of the Lord*), dated May 29th, '36, and May 22nd, which were handed to me from my sister which has recently subscribed for the paper. My soul never feasted more heartily than it did upon those two sermons on paper. I am enclosing 35c in coin for the paper and does this amount pay for one year or how long? I hope to send in some new subscriptions soon and may God extend His blessing upon the paper as for as it reaches out. God give us more men who love the lost world."

(Signed) Mrs. Delvalle, Texas

"I received the paper, 'The Sword of the Lord' since February 7th. I get a great blessing reading it. Then I pass them on."

(Signed) Mrs. Whitney Point, N. Y.

"We have been getting your paper and it is wonderful. It has been

a comfort to us as we live where we never hear a sermon."

(Signed) Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Oakford, Illinois.

Here Is Our Dinner

"You wanted to know if the readers of *The Sword of the Lord* ever say "Amen." Yes we do—every time we get the paper. We like it all. When we get the paper on Saturday morning about 12:00 o'clock I take it in and say, 'Well, here is our dinner,' and set down and read it before we eat. You see, Mr. B. is sick. He is not able to do anything. He has been for a year sick but he enjoys the paper so much. We never go anywhere. He is not able. We would be so glad for you to come by some time when you are passing through Weatherford."

"Brother Rice, I wish I could send you some money for you to send the paper to others as it is a great blessing to us. I had it sent to some last spring, but I wish I could send it to a hundred, but we say "Amen and Amen" from the bottom of our heart."

(Signed) Mr. and Mrs. J. L. B. Weatherford, Texas

"People Everywhere Are Praising It"

"Enclosed find 35c postage stamps for which please send me 'The Sword of the Lord' for one year. I have just recently heard of your wonderful paper and people everywhere are praising it. Keep up the good work."

(Signed) A. J. Duncansville, Pa.

"I have received several copies of 'The Sword of the Lord.' I enjoy them very much. May God continue to bless your work there. Thank God for a man that has grace enough, holy courage and boldness to stick to the good old book and hand out Gospel that really saves from sin."

(Signed) Mrs. W. B. Atlanta, Georgia

Liked Sermon on "Mussolini Restores the Roman Empire"

"Enclosed please find 25c in stamps for five copies of 'The Sword of the Lord' the issue Friday, May 22nd. I wish I could send out a million copies of that sermon on 'Mussolini Restores the Roman Empire.'"

(Signed) Wilmington, Delaware

"After reading your sermon, the Restoration of the Roman Empire, I must write you and say it was indeed a great blessing to me. Yesterday over the radio I announced I would preach along the same line, Tuesday. Oh, how fast is the clock of prophecy ticking on. Surely our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is coming soon. We the offering the Sword of the Lord free to every listener over the radio that will read it. Send the Sword of the Lord to the following. Send copies on 'The Unpardonable Sin' and 'Divine Healing' if you have them. Pre-date subscriptions to cover."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

"Behold, The Bridegroom Cometh"

What Will Happen When Jesus Comes; Wise and Foolish Virgins, The Oil of Salvation. Who Will Be Left Behind? Will Backslidden, Worldly Christians Be in The Marriage?

The second coming of Christ is one of the most prominent themes of the Bible. Jesus gave many parables and illustrations of how it would be on the earth when He returns. In Matthew alone, chapters 13, 24 and 25 are given over entirely to teaching about the second coming. Jesus is pictured in the gospels as a Nobleman who has gone away to receive a kingdom and who will return to reign, as a Householder who has distributed his money to servants to use until His return when they must give an account, and as a Landowner who sowed wheat in His field but whose enemy (the devil) sowed tares. And in Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus pictures Himself as the Bridegroom who will return to this earth to receive His bride, the saved, for a glorious honeymoon in Heaven! The parable of the return of the bridegroom pictures only one phase of the Lord's return. It does not discuss the fact that Jesus will return literally, bodily to the earth after the wedding in Heaven to reign on the earth. Such matters as the battle of Armageddon which will then occur, the restoration of the Jews to Palestine and the reign of Christ from David's throne at Jerusalem are left out of this picture. They will occur later. But

in simple and beautiful and marvelously clear language the Lord Jesus pictures the time when He will return as a Bridegroom to take away His saints into the air for the wedding in Heaven.

Read the Scripture lesson prayerfully. It has marvelous beauties.

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom."

2. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them;

4. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

6. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you; but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

11. Afterwards came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13. Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

The subject of the parable is the second coming of Christ. That is the obvious meaning of verse 13 when Jesus closes with the admonition, "Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Jesus is the Bridegroom and by this term is called several times in the Bible. John the Baptist said:

"Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent from him."

"He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoice greatly because of the bridegroom's voice."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

LOOK HERE!

If a red mark appears here, your subscription has expired whether paid by you or by someone else for you.

Check the exact date your subscription expired by your address. "6-1-36" following your name in the address means your subscription expired June 1, 1936. Check up!

The red mark means you must renew promptly or miss the paper. We must stop the paper where subscriptions continue unpaid. The subscription price is 50c a year.

Behold, The Bridegroom Cometh'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

this my joy therefore is fulfilled." — John 3:28, 29. Again Jesus told the Pharisees that His disciples did not fast because He, the Bridegroom, was with them (Mark 2:19). The bride of Christ will be His church, the saved. The time of the wedding is when the bridegroom comes, that is, when Jesus comes for the saved and we are caught up in the air to meet Him as foretold in I Corinthians 15:51, 52 and in I Thessalonians 4:16-17.

The Kingdom of Heaven

The book of Matthew is the only one in the Bible where the term "the kingdom of Heaven" is used. In the first part of Matthew's gospel, John the Baptist and Jesus preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2; Matt. 4:17), and the twelve apostles preached likewise, "the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 10:7). Jesus meant that the promised heavenly kingdom on earth foretold by Daniel and other prophets was now offered to the children of Israel. Christ their King was at hand. But they rejected Christ and His kingdom. The nation would not repent. The leaders soon set about to crucify Jesus and the kingdom was postponed. Thereafter no more did Jesus preach that "the kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Through the rest of the Bible we find that the apostles and Jesus preached about the kingdom of God, but never, even in the book of Acts nor in any epistle of Paul or Peter or John are we ever told that the kingdom of Heaven was at hand any more. The kingdom of Heaven was at hand until it was refused and postponed. It is not now at hand. Later, in the great translation, "the gospel of the kingdom" will be preached again (Matt. 24:14), for then again the "good news" can be announced that the kingdom is near!

After the kingdom was rejected and postponed and the Jews set about to crucify their King, Jesus gave many parables to explain the postponement of the kingdom and the details of His second coming. The 13th chapter of Matthew gives a number of parables on this subject and each one of them begins with the statement, "The kingdom of heaven is like," etc. In these parables, Jesus simply meant, "I will illustrate some facts about the postponed kingdom by the parable of the sower, or of the grain of mustard seed, or the leaven, or the pearl of great price," etc. Here, in the 25th chapter of Matthew likewise, we have two parables concerning the kingdom of Heaven and Jesus said, "Then shall the kingdom of Heaven be likened unto ten virgins which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom." Jesus said, "I will illustrate one step toward the kingdom by the story of some bridesmaids who went out to meet a bridegroom." We call this the "parable" of the ten virgins, or the "parable" of the returning Bridegroom. Actually, it is a true illustration and in many particular cases we have no doubt the details happened just as Jesus tells us here. This is the story of an oriental wedding. Bridesmaids did take their lamps (possibly a wick of twisted flax through a disc of earthenware) and a separate vessel of earthenware (like a sugar bowl or gravy boat) in which they carried oil. The wick, or lamp part was put over the vessel of oil with the wick going down into the oil. The wick would burn a little while by itself above the encircling disk, but it would soon go out unless this "lamp" was placed over the

pot of oil and the wick could constantly absorb the olive oil. The word "lamp" here in the Greek is "torch." A torch of flax would not burn long unless one end went down in the vessel of oil. This olive oil burned with no danger of explosion and that was the customary lighting system of the East. When the bridegroom came, the tarrying bridesmaids went in with him to the wedding feast which sometimes continued for three days.

The Ten Virgins

Some people believe that the virgin here is used symbolically as a synonym for Christian, but that is not so. The word virgin, as far as I can find, is never used in the Bible in a symbolical sense—not once. If the term virgin is to mean simply a Christian, then Jesus might have been born of a Christian girl, married, not a virgin, but of a human father, and Jesus would not be the Son of God. No, the word virgin simply means what it says. In the oriental marriage which Jesus describes here, ten single girls, selected to be bridesmaids, went out to wait for the bridegroom. These young women do not all represent the same class. If the fact that they were called single girls and virgins meant that they all picture Christians, then we would have ten Christians and five of them losing their salvation, and this Scripture would be contrary to all the rest of the Bible which teaches the wonderful security of one who has trusted in Christ. Or ten Christians and half of them getting left behind when Jesus comes, when the Bible plainly says, "We shall not all sleep but we shall ALL be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (I Corinthians 15:51, 52). No, these virgins are simply young women, bridesmaids, and they represent the two classes who will be affected when Jesus comes for His bride. And every saved person will be raptured when Jesus comes.

Five of these young women were wise and they proved it by taking oil with them, as well as their lamps. Five girls were foolish and while they took the wick which would burn for a little time of itself, they took no oil. The Scriptures do not mean that these foolish virgins had oil in their lamps and the oil burned out and that they should have had an extra supply in other vessels. No, these foolish virgins, the Scripture says, "took NO oil with them." They had the wicks but no oil at all. The wise girls had not only the wicks to burn, the wicks which everybody could see, but they had the inner supply of fuel that would keep the lamps burning brightly through long hours. They each had a vessel of oil into which the wick was inserted. The wick of the foolish virgins would char and smoke and the fire go out entirely. The wicks of the wise virgins would burn on continually because there was oil inside. There is the difference.

The oil is the oil of salvation, and the wise virgins represent saved people, while the foolish virgins represent lost people.

Oil many times in the Bible pictures the Holy Spirit, as it does here. One who is saved has the Holy Spirit within and "is born of the Spirit." One who is unsaved may be ever so nice and fine outwardly and with much human righteousness, but he does not have the presence of God Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit living within him. When one trusts in Christ for salvation, the Holy Spirit of God comes in and makes the body of the believer His temple. It is the Holy Spirit which regenerates the sinner, and thus the sinner is born again and becomes a child of God. Those who have the oil of salvation are those who have trusted Christ, and so the Holy Spirit, Christ's own personal representative has come in to change them and save them.

Profession Versus Salvation

All you who read this expect to be prepared when Jesus comes. The foolish intend to go out to meet Him and go into the wedding supper. But Oh! my friend, you had better make sure today! A good woman came to me with delight to tell me that her unsaved husband had told her he some day

expected to be saved. She was greatly encouraged, but I told her sadly and frankly that everybody else, however wicked and Godless, likewise expected to miss hell some way. The simple fact is that those who are waiting for tomorrow to get ready to meet Jesus are likely to never be ready.

Do you think it strange that these silly girls went out to meet the bridegroom with just the wick to burn, and no oil at all in their vessels? It was foolish. But they probably thought that the bridegroom would come in a moment and they would have no need of the supply of fuel which would guarantee that their lamps would keep burning. I have seen unsaved people who could appear, and did appear, to be model Christians. One man I knew taught a Sunday School class and talked long and loud about morality. Nicodemus, like all the Pharisees, was a fine moral man, though he knew nothing in the world about being born again! I have no doubt Judas Iscariot was a good church member, and the apostles selected him as the ideal one to be treasurer! But he was lost! And yet these I mention all would expect to be and wanted to be ready to go with Jesus to the wedding feast.

Who is there that would want to be left behind when all the saints of all the ages rise out of their graves; when living Christians are changed in a moment, and caught up to meet Jesus; when the shout sounds loud around the whole world and the voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God—who is there then who would want to be left in a world that is turned over to Satan and his man of sin. No! No! All want to miss that fearful time. The vilest sinner would like to see the pureness and holiness of Heaven. The Christ-rejecting, blaspheming child of the devil yet wants to meet his mother, wants to have ease from pain and comfort for sorrow! Every one who ever wept longs for a glimpse of that Holy city where God shall wipe away all tears! Every one who has said goodbye to a loved one and has placed sweet flowers on the little mound where they were buried, would like to see the time when death and sorrow and pain and separation and good byes are forever a thing of the past! Yes, even you who read this who have never been saved, you want to go with Jesus when He comes. You want to enter into the wedding feast. But I warn you as solemnly as I know how that you will be left behind if you do not have the oil of salvation. I beg you today to make sure.

The Bridegroom Tarries

Those who have a profession but really do not possess Christ, they may fool people for a little, but ere long they will stumble. Brother, your lamp of profession is certain to go out unless you have the oil of salvation. No man can fool God even for a moment, of course, but you cannot continue to fool even men. The man out of whom a devil went into dry places seeking rest found later on that the same devil returned to his house (this unsaved man who had reformed), and brought with him seven other devils, and the last state of that man was worse than the first (Matt. 12:43-45). There is no possible way to meet the requirements, my friend, without a real change of heart, wrought in you by the Spirit of God. Unless you have been born again and have become a partaker of the divine nature, all your profession, your good deeds, your lodge membership, your morality, will fade away to nothing.

I do not know altogether why Jesus tarries and does not come for his poor saints. Part of it is because He is not willing that any should perish, we are told, but there must be another reason too. The tarrying of Jesus shows up this old world as nothing else could do. While Jesus waits and does not come, the world has gone mad for money, for pleasure, for power. The innate wickedness of mankind has soaked the world in blood and cursed it with war. Crime, hate, and ruin are on every hand. The tarry of Jesus shows up the true from the false. The wheat and tares look much alike when they first come up, but later at the harvest the two can be truly separated. At first glimpse the light

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

'Cast Thy Bread Upon The Waters'

WILL YOU HELP GET THE GOSPEL TO THOUSANDS WEEKLY?

The actual cash expense of getting 5,000 copies of *The Sword of the Lord* printed, addressed, and in the mails each week, runs close to \$70. or \$3,500.00 a year. This does not count anything at all for the time and labor of the editor, but only actual cash spent. The total income from 5,000 subscriptions at the rates we have used, would bring in less than half of the actual cost, and thus far there are practically no ads in *The Sword of the Lord*. This means that the editor is paying out of his own pocket approximately \$2,000.00 a year, or nearly \$40.00 a week to keep *The Sword of the Lord* going. Though the burden is heavy, we thank God for the privilege of getting out the papers. So many are being blessed by them. Even as I dictated these lines, three minutes ago, a dear crippled woman walking on crutches, stopped at the window of my study and asked for a copy of my paper! She said she always read it when she could get it and wished our prayers. In every state in the Union, and in a number of foreign countries, *The Sword of the Lord* brings blessings every week. Over 5,000 people get *The Sword of the Lord* every week, and surely thousands of others in the same homes read the paper. No congregation in the world assembles to hear preaching of the gospel Sunday by Sunday as large as the group which every week gets the gospel in *The Sword of the Lord*. No preachers living can reach so many each week except by the printed page and the radio.

Eventually we hope and pray that the paper will be self-supporting. As the subscription list multiplies and more copies of the paper are printed each week, then printing cost will be less per copy. 10,000 copies do not cost twice as much as 5,000 copies. Expenses per subscription should be less as we grow.

But more important, when *The Sword of the Lord* reaches a circulation of 10,000 or more, we should begin to have a good deal of national advertising. Local merchants in Dallas do not find advertising profitable in a paper that goes around the whole world with only a few hundred copies in Dallas. Eventually advertising should pay the printing cost of the paper and more, when it reaches a large circulation, but at this time, advertising brings very little income. With the help of the Lord, I expect to keep this paper going and blessing countless thousands every week, though I continue it at a very great sacrifice.

Do You Want to Help in This Missionary Work

The sermons, the Bible teachings, the devotional help in *The Sword of the Lord* are doing untold good. Every mail tells of the blessings people receive from God through this paper. The dear Lord has marvelously used it to win souls, to teach His Word, to encourage and bless Christians. I invite you to help me carry this heavy load until the paper shall become self-supporting, God willing. I believe that an offering sent to help on the expenses of *The Sword of the Lord* will do as much to take the gospel around the whole world as any way it could be spent.

"Cast thy bread upon the waters and it shall return to thee after many days" (Eccl. 11:1), says the Word of God. By faith, I have been carrying on this work week after week, month after month, without any reward except that given by the dear Lord. It has been a joy of my heart to put money into the publication of this paper which otherwise would have been spent for things that we really needed, but did without. My good wife feels the same way and we have lived very simply, gladly denying ourselves that the gospel might be carried out to all the world. The young women in the office have no regular salaries, even as I have none, and willingly give themselves to hard work and self-denial for the glory of God. The dear Lord helps me to supply their needs, but the readers would be amazed to learn how little they ask and get. We are trying to do our share to

get out the gospel in every way possible, and we are happy in the sweet assurance that God is blessing it and getting glory to Himself through the pages of *The Sword of the Lord*. Over a million pages a year are going out with the gospel in *The Sword of the Lord*. Praise God! We know that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Don't you want to help in this blessed work? Do you want to take care of a part of the \$40.00 deficit this week? If so, send your offering and the dear Lord will repay. It will return to you after many days. First, you will have the sweet peace of knowing you are carrying out the great Commission and the Holy Spirit will bless your heart. Second, you may expect material blessings for we are plainly promised that "Give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38). You will never get ahead of God.

Paul told the Philippian saints, "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account" (Phil. 4:17). While your help would be appreciated, yet I do not want it given for my sake. Do it for Jesus' sake and then when a soul is saved through reading *The Sword of the Lord*, it will be charged, partly at least, to your account, and you will share with us the rewards which God always gives to soul winners and those who get out the gospel.

We are trying to be faithful. We are happy in the work. We hope soon thousands of others will be reading *The Sword of the Lord*. But we trust that God will put it on the hearts of many to help us take care of the deficit and keep the work going.

"I Plan to Be At Your Next Bible School"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

will be by far the greatest program of its kind we have ever had, a program of Bible teaching, soul winning, fellowship, and practical demonstration that will be worth going across the United States for. Many preachers say that their ministry has been transformed by the three great Bible Schools or Bible Conferences which have been held in the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle in Dallas. Who will ever forget the remarkable conversions, the hours of blessing of the last one?

The next program will be announced later but meantime we hope that readers of *The Sword of the Lord* in every state in the Union will plan now to attend the great Bible Conference in Dallas in October. The date may likely be October 11th to the 18th. Many are requesting a longer period.

We cannot endorse everything about the World's Fair in Dallas, but there are many truly remarkable exhibits that make this World's Fair equal, and in many respects, excel the Century of Progress at Chicago. We suggest that visitors from many states make arrangements to delay their trip to the Centennial until they can attend our Bible School in October. Let the Bible School and the fellowship with Christians from many states be the main thing, and incidentally see the great Texas Centennial before you return.

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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Mrs. Ridgway's Corner

By Mrs. Elizabeth Ridgway
Manager, *The Sword of the Lord*
and The Sword Book Room

Here is a corner all my own. I want to share with you some of the encouraging and thrilling letters that have come to me this week.

A friend from Whitesboro writes:

"How glad I am that you are now in Dallas. My cousin, Thelma Lawrence, and I were in your class many years ago—and my! how we loved you. I am enclosing fifty cents for six of Brother Rice's booklets."

A friend from Fort Worth,

Provine Street, writes:

"I heard you talk over the radio yesterday and am very happy you are associated with Brother Rice, and I think you have made a wise choice in selecting a place to work for the Lord. Please send me the list of good books and the copy of the paper (*Sword of the Lord*) and also enter my subscriptions for a club of four."

Another friend from Fort Worth, Sylvania Station, addresses this letter to Brother Rice and me:

"I am enclosing \$1.00 which will cover four subscriptions. I read Brother Rice's sermon on Mussolini to mother. We think it is a masterpiece. We are rejoicing that you have Mrs. Ridgway with you. She is so capable and will relieve you of much responsibility. Your articles are all an inspiration."

Watch for me again next week.

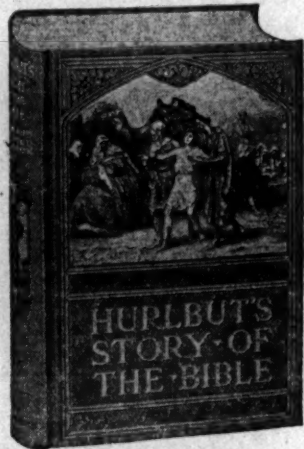
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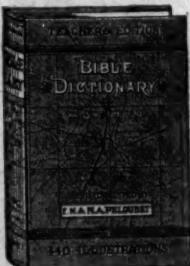
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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

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"I see in the May 22nd copy of 'The Sword of the Lord,' that you have more extra copies of the sermon on 'The Unpardonable Sin,' also 'Mussolini Restores the Roman Empire.' Please send several copies to my address. Both sermons are wonderful. Oh, how thankful I am that we still have a few preachers that are preaching God's Holy Word. The lost world is crying out for just such preaching. Your paper is the greatest in a Spiritual way that comes in to our home."

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"I could never tell you how much I appreciate the encouragement and help you have been to us in the mission work here through your paper, but I'm sure that God knows and will reward you for it in some way, so I just say, 'thank you' again for it."

(Signed) Rev. T. E. D. Cherokee, Oklahoma

"More Valuable Than Silver or Gold"

"Have been getting your paper, 'The Sword of the Lord and of John R. Rice.' Am glad indeed to have a friend send me a present like that. It is much more valuable than silver or gold. I enjoy reading the messages contained in it very much. I hope I am not too late to get four subscrip-

'Behold The Bridegroom Cometh'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

of a burning wick with no oil might look like the light from a well filled lamp, but not after the bridegroom tarried awhile! I cannot lay on your heart too strongly the fact that nothing in this world will do when Jesus comes but a new heart, indwelt by the Spirit of God, that Holy One!

In Sherman, Texas, several years ago, God gave us a great revival where hundreds found Christ. Many strong, wicked men, old men as well as young, were gloriously saved. One night I preached on this Scripture, and a young man named Allen was wonderfully saved. He lived in Denison, Texas, and worked in the Chevrolet garage.

A night or two afterwards I saw before the service began a strange man in the back of the crowd, and as I shook hands with others, I approached him and asked his name and whether he was saved. He told me that he lived in Denison, that he was not a Christian. As I talked to him further he finally said, "Do you know a man named Allen who was converted here the other night? Well, I work at the same place he does, in the Chevrolet garage in Denison. The next morning after he was saved he came home and told us about your sermon and how Jesus was coming and how one must have the oil of salvation. He told us he got the oil and he wanted us to come too. So I came tonight to

tions for one dollar. Am enclosing one dollar for four subscriptions if it still holds good."

(Signed) Mrs. E. R. S. Clay City, Indiana

Echoes of Binghamton Revival

"We want you to know that we surely enjoy your paper; it has been a great blessing to us and we look forward to receiving it each week. Our prayer each day is that God will continually bless you in your paper, radio and church work. Wish it were possible for us to hear your voice and Bro. Stroh's over the radio again. We often think of the meeting in the old Binghamton Theater and wish they might be repeated."

(Signed) Wm. L. T. Port Dickinson, Binghamton, N. Y.

(Continued in Next Issue)

Baptist Centennial Camp Meeting

JULY 10th TO 19th, AT DECATUR, TEXAS

By E. L. Banta

It was the privilege of the writer, accompanied by Mr. W. G. Stroh, Mrs. John R. Rice and Mrs. Banta to attend a service at the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle at Decatur, Thursday evening, May 28. A good sized audience was present. Several special numbers were given by Mr. Stroh. The Bantas also sang. After a sermon on the second coming of Christ, a meeting was conducted in the interest of the proposed camp meeting. Other Baptist churches were represented. Following a large vote to cooperate in the proposed camp meeting on the said dates, a committee of five was chosen. The committee was composed of Rev. Loys Vess, Rev. Sam Anderson, Rev. Scott W. Hickey, Mr. R. C. Nutting and E. L. Banta. Rev. Scott W. Hickey, pastor of the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle at Decatur is to act as chairman of the committee. During the afternoon before the above mentioned service, it was our privilege to visit the site of the camp meeting grounds which are known as the Wise County Old Settlers Reunion Grounds. Some of the largest trees that I have seen anywhere in Texas, with exception of the pine trees in Southeast Texas, are on this ground. They furnish beautiful shades. There is a splendid well of water and electric lights on the grounds. There are several frames on the camp grounds which can be used by any who have canvas wagon covers, or stack covers. There are a few buildings that can be used by campers. It

is planned to have tents for rent as well as cots. Those attending the camp will have to bring their bedding and toilet articles. There will also be a place where meals will be served on the grounds at a reasonable price. Arrangements will be made so that those who want to do their own cooking may do so. They may bring their own oil stoves or cook on furnaces arranged for that purpose.

Great interest is being manifested in Wise County in the coming camp meeting. Many spoke very favorably in this evening service regarding the camp meeting and how they were praying that it would be a time of great spiritual blessing and soul winning.

The committee is writing several speakers and we hope at an early date to be able to announce their names. We trust there will be something of real interest and blessing to our hearts from early morning to late at night every day of the camp.

Special Edition of Papers

It is planned to have a special Wise County edition of *The Word of Truth* and copies of this paper will be put in every home in Wise County. This paper will take the place of the circulars that we had thought of getting out when we wrote the various pastors about the camp meeting. Many have expressed themselves as expecting to attend this camp. This paper will have further information in the coming issues regarding the actual cost of cots, tents, etc., as well as speakers.

hear."

He got the oil! Dear friend, if you do not have the oil in your vessel, I beg you to do it today, tonight, wherever or whenever you read these lines. Nothing else will do when Jesus comes.

With men profession may be all right, but when Jesus comes, a SESSION, actual possession of salvation through the inwelling Christ and the Holy Spirit of God—that is what every one must have to go with Jesus, be a part of the wedding party and partake of the wedding supper in the glorious honeymoon in Heaven when all the saved gather around that happy festive board.

The Bridegroom tarries yet. But it is in mercy that He tarries. You can get the oil now and be ready, and I hope some one will today.

"They All Slumbered and Slept"

In verse 5 the Scripture says they all, wise and foolish, saved and lost, "slumbered and slept." It seems that "slumbered" would have been enough, but they both "slumbered and slept!" Jesus put emphasis here. This is a picture of society as a whole when Jesus comes.

I know there are those who believe that if you are truly saved you will never falter, that your light will never need trimming, that your love will never grow cold. There are some who believe this parable teaches sinless perfection and that only those who are so "sanctified" with "the carnal nature eradicated" will be taken by the Saviour at the rapture. But this very verse disposes of any such foolish and false and unscriptural idea. They ALL "slumbered and slept." The betrayal of Jesus by Judas was heart breaking but some way the denial by Peter is infinitely sadder! It is sad that this world does not look for Jesus, is not ready for His coming. The world is getting mighty wicked and far away from God, but that is not the worst of the story. Infinitely worse is the other side of the picture. The churches themselves are cold. Preachers of the gospel have more and more doubts about the Bible and salvation and God. Even born-again Christians find themselves entangled in the lust of the flesh and losing the joy of salvation. "They all slumbered and slept." If we needed any sign at all that we are in the night when Jesus shall come to take away His bride, the worldliness, the coldness, the fatal slumber in the churches would be sign enough. It is a sad fact that in the days just before the coming of Jesus we may expect Christians the world around, as well as the unsaved, to slumber and sleep and be unaware of the coming of the Saviour.

Note this distinction which Jesus clearly makes. A really saved child of God may slumber, but thank God he still has his oil! His light may grow smoky while he fails to watch and pray, but thank God that light does not go out! I am glad that my salvation does not depend on how carefully I watch. It depends on the Holy Spirit of God within me who never allows that Heavenly spark to go out! God's children slumber, they fail to watch, they fail to pray. Doubtless multiplied thousands of Christians will be greatly embarrassed when Jesus comes, but since they have the oil of salvation, they will go in to the marriage! Brother, sister, unsaved friend, let me press hard on your heart that while it is a good thing to stay awake and watch, the only possible way to be saved is to have the oil of salvation, let the Holy Spirit of God come in and make you God's child, by faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Will Come "At Midnight"

There are those who foolishly believe that this world is getting better. Far from it! There are those who think that our schools and hospitals, our laws, our peace treaties, our churches and our clubs, our relief agencies and our Red Cross and Community Chests will bring this world out of its darkness and sin and suffering; but that contradicts the Bible and is contrary to all observation. The world is not getting better, but worse. There are more divorces

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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'Behold The Bridegroom Cometh'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

than ever. Wars increase everywhere. Governments multiply bureaus and increase laws and taxes, but the also multiply demagoguery and corruption. The home decays. The pulpit has lost its fire and you cannot tell the church from the world. Jesus will not come with the world in the bright morning of a glorious age of peace and prosperity. He will not find peace on earth generally and good will toward men. When He comes, He will not find that the meek have inherited the earth or that His will is done on earth as it is in Heaven. The coming of Jesus will not be at morning or at noonday, but it will be at the blackest midnight this world has ever seen. The civilization of the world has entered into the shades of a night which will see it utterly destroyed. The curse that was put on the world for man's sin, will increase until rivers are turned to blood, until the armies of the Antichrist are possessed with devils, until the Man of sin himself is Satan incarnate, and until the armies of the world are slain in one day! The shadows gather now, yea, it is far toward midnight. And when midnight comes, then we will hear the shout, "Behold! the Bride cometh, go ye out to meet Him!"

There is a Scripture that speaks of the coming of Jesus as the rising of the sun and here is a sweet and blessed lesson for the child of God. In Malachi 4:2, God speaks of Jesus as the Sun of righteousness and says, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." But that promise is to the Jewish nation and refers to the return of Christ in glory to reign at the close of the tribulation time. To New Testament Christians looking for the rapture, Christ is not the Sun of righteousness, but "the bright and morning Star" (Rev. 22:16). The star arises in the night, and so in the midst of the wickedness and sin and failure and heartache and sorrow and

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ruin of this world, Jesus will come to take away His bride! AT MIDNIGHT! To the Jewish nation in the tribulation time looking anxiously for their Messiah whom they had before rejected but now seek, Christ will arise as "The Sun of righteousness" and will usher in the glorious day of His reign on earth. But first, He will come like the Bridegroom to steal away His betrothed, His bride. Jesus the Morning Star will take us away in the night of this world's wickedness. But when He returns with us, He will bring the morning and He will be the Sun. As the beloved Dr. R. A. Torrey said during the world war, "When all around me the night grows blacker and blacker, some way my heart grows lighter and lighter, for I know that soon it must be midnight and Jesus must come." The blacker the night, beloved, the nearer is midnight and the coming of the Bridegroom.

He Comes! He Comes!

What a shock to this old world when the cry goes out "Behold, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him!" Some have spoken of this coming of Jesus as if it would be secret, but it *can* not be secret! For one reason, there is the shout and the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. When the trumpet sounds loud enough to wake the dead, and the voice of the archangel calls scattered bones to assemble, and decayed bodies to re-form in a glorified state, and when the shout of the ascending millions makes the Heavens ring, oh! oh! Brother, there will be no secret then! And this very Scripture shows that unsaved people as well as saved people will know when Jesus comes. The foolish virgins without the oil of salvation heard the cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh!" They, too, wanted to go and they saw suddenly that their lamps were out! Every lost person in the entire world will know when Jesus comes to take away His bride, and every poor, condemned sinner will wish he had been ready and will want to go! The foolish virgins turned and said, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out," but Brother, you can't get it that way. In a barber chair in Decatur, Texas, years ago I hear a man say, "Do you know what I am depending on to get me to Heaven? It is the prayers of my mother. Not a day for thirty years but that she has prayed for me and I believe that she will get me there." My friend, the devil never left a hope more false and baseless than that. When Jesus comes, mother has no time nor power to take along her unsaved boy. When Jesus comes, the husband may plead with his wife in vain to wait for him, but she will have to say, "No, you must go to the One who can save. I have only salvation enough for myself!" At that time the one who relies on mother's prayers, on a wife's goodness or on anything so false, such will be utterly surprised and disappointed. Only those who have the oil of salvation will go on that wedding journey and enter in before the door is shut to the wedding feast.

Sometimes a man says, "I let my wife do the praying." Yes, and many a poor, wicked sinner lets his wife take the children to Sunday School. His wife reads the Bible, his wife teaches the little one to pray. Many a sorry, shabby husband and father puts on the shoulder of his wife all the duties of religion and he himself goes on with his cursing, his drinking, or perhaps just as guilty, his mind is occupied with business or pleasure. Friend, your wife may do the praying now, and the church going, and the Bible reading, but one day if you ever get in the door to the marriage, you yourself must have the oil! It will be too late then to say, "Give us of your oil for our lamps have gone out." Salvation is an individual matter and every man, woman and child must himself trust Christ for salvation.

"And The Door Was Shut"

God has opened so many doors of mercy and held them open so long despite our wicked heart and our rebellion and rejection of His mercy. The door of salvation He keeps open again and again. The door of opportunity He holds open long. God is good. His love goes out to every sinner. God opens the door for sinners.

So now the door of the marriage is open, but do not presume on that fact, sinner, for one day the door will be shut! When Jesus comes in an instant, in a moment, "in the twinkling of an eye" to snatch up His saints to meet Him in Heaven, then the door to the marriage and the wedding supper will be closed. The Scripture here does not say that the door of salvation will be closed, but the door to the wedding will be closed.

That meeting of all the saints of the ages in Heaven—do you want to be there? Then get in before the door closes. Do you want to see Jesus in all His resurrection glory, as He presents us without spot or wrinkle to His Father and our Father? Then get in Brother, get the oil of salvation so you can come in before the door is shut. Are you hungry for a glimpse of the Father's house with many mansions which Jesus has gone to prepare for those who love Him? Then remember when Jesus comes, the door will be shut and you will miss the excursion unless you have a ticket ahead of time, salvation by the blood. Get the oil while you can, before the door is shut!

How to Be Ready

I cannot close this message without trying to make clear the plan of salvation. Christ died for sinners. His death on the cross paid for all your sins. Salvation is free, if you will put your trust in Christ you will be saved. The Holy Spirit will come in and change your heart.

You depend on doctors when you are sick. If you were in jail you would call a good lawyer and risk him. You risk a bank with your money. If you can trust men about matters like these, then surely you can trust Christ to save your soul. Trust Him today. Ask Him to save you and believe that He does. Depend upon Him!

Remember that Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." If you will open your heart and trust Jesus as your own Saviour today, you will have the oil of salvation and be ready when the cry goes out, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh."

Will Anyone Be Saved After the Rapture?

When the door is shut to the marriage and sinners are left behind, can sinners then be saved? That is a question often asked. Yes, it seems clear that sinners yet living on the earth after the rapture will have a chance to be saved. These foolish virgins were told, "Go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves." Verse 10 tells us that "they went to buy." It seems clear that the foolish virgins had a chance to get oil even after the door was shut to the marriage. Later they came and begged to be let into the wedding, but they were not admitted. The bridegroom would not let unknown people into the house past the midnight hour, and that is used as an illustration that those who are not ready at the rapture will have no second chance to partake of the wedding feast in Heaven. If they are alive and have not committed the unpardonable sin, it seems clear that they might be saved, but their lot would be to remain on this earth through a time of terrible tribulation and wickedness and sorrow while all the saints who were ready are enjoying the marriage in Heaven with Christ and the Father. Revelation, chapter 7, tells us of 144,000 Israelites, and a great multitude that no man could number from every nation and kindred and tongue, and we are told that these "Came out of great tribulation." Some will be saved when their loved ones are taken away. Some will speedily seek the Lord, when they are plunged into the sorrows of that time of tribulation, such as never was on the earth, no, nor ever shall be again. But they stay here to be put to death by the Antichrist when they will not take his mark in their foreheads or in their hands. They remain on this earth to be hunted like wild beasts or to die in the plagues that will take one-half of the population of the world!

Oh, my brother, it will be a terrible thing to have the door shut in your face when Jesus comes, and you are left behind. The saddest part is that with such a terrible price to pay, most sinners will never seek the Lord after mother and father and the preachers who love God are taken away. Many of you now will not be saved, because you will not face the laugh of a companion. Do you think you would turn when it might mean your death to be on the side of Jesus in the great tribulation? Not likely! Multitudes will never seek God if they are not saved before the rapture. I beg you, do not wait until the door is shut! Get the oil of salvation for your lamp today.

WATCH!

Therefore, since Jesus is coming our duty is to watch. Verse 13 says:

"Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Nobody knows when Jesus is coming. There is not a way in the world that the time can be set. You cannot learn it in the Bible. You cannot learn it from the great Pyramid. Signs on every hand indicate that the coming of Christ is near, but there is no way to tell the day nor the hour. Jesus may come at any moment, and therefore, we are commanded to watch. Keep your lamp trimmed and burning for at any moment you may hear the cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." Preachers must preach it. Christians must watch and pray for in an hour that we do not expect it, while we, as well as the world slumber and sleep, Jesus may come. Get those saved who are dear to you, or they may be left behind when the door is shut. Give your testimony. Clear your skirts, or you will be ashamed before Him when you go into the wedding supper!

'Has Your Church' — (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

those who commit such sin. The *Sword of the Lord* has now something over 5,000 subscriptions while the paper which carried such charges has a circulation of approximately four times as much. It has that advantage at present. But the dear Lord has helped and will help that the truth be known. In His mercy He has raised up friends on all sides for this paper.

The promise of God in Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord" is a wonderful comfort to the servant of God who relies upon it. One may safely put his confidence in the Lord and not be disturbed.

I call the attention of every reader to the fact that even in this necessary statement, correcting false impressions, there is no malice and no attempt to harm. I shall rejoice in whatever good is done by anybody, and whenever the gospel is preached, like Paul, I will rejoice whether I believe motives are right or not. That is for God to judge. Our part is the part of quiet trust, praying for all, and walking a straight path in the light of God. I would be a poor disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ if I were not sometimes abused, misrepresented and misunderstood. And it is certainly not a matter to repine about for Jesus plainly commanded us to "beware when all men speak well of you," and to rejoice when man cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

Meantime this incident should prove a lesson to Christians everywhere. The Scripture plainly commands us, "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses" (I Tim. 5:19). Let us be warned against receiving lightly charges against God's prophets. Do not take the word of any one man against a preacher, the Scripture commands. I suggest that we should particularly beware of one who has proven himself so often self-seeking and unreliable in his statements, and that all the more when he attacks honest, Bible believing, soul winning preachers.